

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 9 are presently pending in the application.

Claim 2 has been cancelled and its subject matter incorporated into claim 1, so that claim 1 is now original claim 2. Claims 4 and 8 have been cancelled as redundant. In addition, original claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 9, and the dependency of claim 6 has been amended to depend from this new claim 9. Accordingly, the amendments are fully supported by the original claims, and no new matter has been added. Entry of the claim amendments is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings on the grounds that (1) reference numbers 61, 62A, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64A and 64B are not mentioned in the description and (2) that FIG. 1 only illustrates that which is old and should be labeled as prior art. Accordingly, the paragraph under COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 2 at page 27 of the specification, where FIG. 7 is mentioned, has been amended to describe the reference numerals in FIG. 7. Note that the reference numerals in FIG. 7 correspond to the similar reference numerals in FIG. 6 (described in the paragraph bridging pages 33 and 34 of the specification), except that the reference numerals in FIG. 6 are in the 50s and the reference numerals in FIG. 7 are in the 60s. Accordingly, no new matter has been added, and entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

In addition, as required by the Examiner, FIG. 1 has been labeled "PRIOR ART," and a replacement sheet of drawings containing FIG. 1 is submitted herewith. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the drawing objections are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract as exceeding the maximum word count of 150 words. While applicants do not agree that the word count is excessive, the Abstract has been amended to delete sufficient words to bring the word count below 150. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0211376 of Hatch *et al.* The Examiner contends that applicants cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a translation has not been made of record.

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While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner's rejections and the arguments in support thereof, the rejections are moot in view of the incorporation of original claim 2 into claim 1 and the dependency of claim 5 from this claim. Moreover, to complete the record, applicants submit herewith an English translation of Japanese priority document number JP 2002-230538. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner has objected to claims 2-4 and 6-8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form. As noted above, claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten in independent form as amended claim 1 and new claim 9. All of the remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, all of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the specification, claims and drawings fully comply with all formal requirements, and the claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

(Date)

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Enclosures [Verified English Translation of Japanese Priority Document
Replacement sheet of drawings containing amended FIG. 1]

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Amendments to the Drawings:

Attached is a replacement sheet for the first sheet of drawings which contains Fig. 1, which has been amended to insert the legend “PRIOR ART” as requested by the Examiner.